gratis.

The CASE *of the* Goldſmiths *of the City of* London, *who in obedience to the Laws, make all their Works both of Gold and Silver, up to the Standard-goodneſs.*

Humbly offered to the Conſideration of both Houſes of Parliament.

1. THat great numbers of his Majeſties Subjects are Imployed, and have their Livelihood by making and ſelling the Works of Gold and Silver, whereby vaſt quantities are now in uſe amongſt us, which if honeſtly made of the Standard-goodneſs, it may be truly accounted one great part of the Ornament and Riches of this Kingdom.

2. That upon conſideration thereof, the *Goldſmiths* of *London* have been of old, and now are, or ought all to be of one Incorporation; and the Wardens of that Company are intruſted by their Charter, and the ſeveral Statutes of the 28 *Edw.* 1. *cap.* 20. and 37 *Edw.* 3. *cap.* 7. and 2 *Hen.* 6. *cap.* 14. and 18 *Eliz. cap.* 15. to inſpect, view and try all Gold and Silver Works throughout *England*: But by reaſon of ſome defects in thoſe Laws, in the Powers thereby given for Searching and Seizing all Works made courſer then the Standard thereby appointed, and the great temptation of the Gains by Adulterating thoſe Wares, great Evils do enſue: (to wit)

3. That the evil-diſpoſed *Goldſmiths* in and about the City of *London*, and throughout this Kingdom, do preſume to make great quantities of moſt ſorts of Silver-Works of a very baſe Allay, not worth 3 *s.* the ounce, and of Gold not worth 3 *l.* the ounce, and ſell the ſame as Standard-Gold and Sterling-Silver; the value of which Deceit was (at a late hearing before his Majeſty in Councel, of a Complaint between the ſaid Wardens, and the well-diſpoſed working-*Goldſmiths* of *London*) computed to be about 20000 *l. per annum*, which no Perſon there did contradict.

4. That the ſaid well-diſpoſed *Goldſmiths* did then before His Majeſty alledge, (as in truth it is) their condition to be very lamentable; For if they, in obedience to the Laws, (and the Oath impoſed on them by the ſaid Wardens at their making Free) make all their Works of the Standard-goodneſs, they ſhall loſe their Trades, and ſo be brought to extreme poverty, by the evil-diſpoſed *Goldſmiths* making their Works of a very baſe Allay, and ſelling cheaper, yet do get near double the Profit the honeſt *Goldſmiths* get, in every ounce of Work: And if the well diſpoſed *Goldſmiths*, by the great neceſſity of their Livelihoods, are forc'd to fall to Cheating and Cozening, by putting Braſs or Copper in their Gold and Silver Works, they not only go againſt their ſaid Oaths, and ſo diſquiet their Conſciences by ſo great a Sin, but are expoſed to reproach and ſhame, by following a Trade ſupported by Fraud, which the evil-diſpoſed *Goldſmiths* make no ſcruple at, but uſe all the artifices imaginable to all in Authority, to prevent an honeſt Reformation.

5. Upon hearing the Premiſſes at the Councel-Board, and the Allegations of the ſaid Wardens, (by their Councel) that they had not power to ſuppreſs theſe Deceits; his Majeſty was then pleaſed to direct, that Endeavours be forthwith uſed to obtain an Act of Parliament, for effectually ſuppreſſing the ſaid Frauds, which will be to the great Honour of this Kingdom, encouragement of Trade, and a creditable Subſiſtance and Livelyhood to ſeveral thouſands of his Majeſties Subjects, and amongſt which, to the honeſt diſpoſed *Goldſmiths* aforeſaid, who are impatient to ſee our Nation outdone by the *French*, in the fineneſs of all their Gold and Silver in Works, which is always as good and ſometimes better than the *Engliſh* Standard aforeſaid.

6. And laſtly, That all Perſons may be more fully convinced of the neceſſity of relief in the Premiſſes by Parliament, ſee a full Diſcovery of the ſeveral and ſubtil Frauds in the Gold and Silver Works, and all the Laws now in force for redreſs thereof, comprized in a late Treatiſe entituled, *A Touchſtone for Gold and Silver Wares*, the 2*d.* Edition, compoſed by a well-diſpoſed *Goldſmith*, on purpoſe to procure a Reformation in the Premiſſes, and are printed for *J. Bellinger* and *T. Ba[illegible]*